

Kanuri

Multivaluation @ Frankfurt

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1 Language Information

- Source: Lukas (1937)
- Glottlog: <http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/cent2050>
- ISO-identifier: kno
- Speakers:
- Location: Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan
- Geneology: Saharan > Western Saharan > Kanuri-Kanembu > Kanuric > Central Kanuri

2 Nominal Morphology

There is a plural suffix *-á* that marks plurality.

3 Verbal Morphology

The verb agrees with the subject in person and number.

4 Conjunction

The coordinating conjunctions in Kanuri are the following - ...-*a*...-*a* 'and', ...-*so*...-*so* 'and', ...-*n*...-*n* 'and, as well' (equals the ablative suffix that means 'in, on, by means of, with'), ...-*yé*...-*yé* 'as well...as, and', *dugô* 'but', *yayé* 'but', *ammá* 'but'.

- (1) *aâ fandáskənà, dugô agó lága mbáuzənà*
?

'Yes I have found it, but something is missing.' [Lukas, 1937, p. 144]

- (2) fàrtá shí zàurò tálámga mēm kúràn kózànà; yayé cínzàrò ìzámga yikkíyeiyà
?
náshà ragyénàro tígónzàgà sawarnyèn
- 'The horse greatly surpasses the tongue in size; nevertheless, if we put a bit into its mouth, we can guide it wherever we like' [Lukas, 1937, p. 144]
- (3) bískà dívì, amhá kùtá ngálwo
?
'Yesterday it was bad, but today it is better.' [Lukas, 1937, p. 144]
- (4) kwâ-à kámu-à
?
'the man and the wife' [Lukas, 1937, p. 145]
- (5) maitá jiljá-à lardáá bótogónzàvè-aro kàrigè sàtànà
?
'The king waged war on the tribes and the countries near him.' [Lukas, 1937, p. 145]
- (6) kulùm átà-a kulùm mǎiyè wùrò 'róné' sà shínàtá-à zàurò sávèn
?
'This ring and the ring which the king had given to me with the words 'keep it' are very similar.' [Lukas, 1937, p. 145]
- (7) shí-à cári lága-à kèlā fōkkàda
?
'He and an old man met (he met an old man).' [Lukas, 1937, p. 145]
- (8) wú-à sáványi-à kattadê
?
'I met my friend (I and my friend met).' [Lukas, 1937, p. 145]
- (9) súronzarò argêm-sò nji-sò fizàgairo tēmagáda
?
'They wanted to pour corn and water into them.' [Lukas, 1937, p. 146]
- (10) hógùm yándó-sò avándo-sòvega gáigo!
?
'Follow the judgment of your mother and father!' [Lukas, 1937, p. 146]
- (11) súro fátò bórìve-so kùl kǎskávè-so kǎuvè-son kargâ
?
'It dwells in deserted compounds, hollows of trees, and rocks.' [Lukas, 1937, p. 146]

- (12) kûrètə Bornôn gavagá-sò gûrsù-so wúli-solan ləváyà tədín
?
'In former times trade was done in Bornu with strips of cotton-cloth, dollars, and cowrie-shells.' [Lukas, 1937, p. 146]
- (13) sandígà shîn múskònro gáigo
?
'Obey them implicitly (with foot and hand).' [Lukas, 1937, p. 146]
- (14) njîmnzàvè cinnàye korí yé zágəsə yé
?
'The entrance of their huts is low and narrow.' [Lukas, 1937, p. 146]
- (15) agó sháuwà kagánzàro ngólà go yé bûtù go yé
?
'Beautiful things which are better and cheaper than theirs.' [Lukas, 1937, p. 146]
- (16) átə zàurò andí àm Bornóvèro árzəgi kúrà yé hērnzə yé andíro ngəvù
?
'This is very lucky for us Bornu people and of great benefit to us.' [Lukas, 1937, p. 146]
- (17) sandíyè zàurò shígà zagánà yé avíso kálkalrò sadín yé
?
'They obeyed him very well and were doing everything correctly.' [Lukas, 1937, p. 146]

5 Disjunction

Disjunction is expressed by *bíyà* 'or', *áu* 'or', *rà* 'or'.

- (18) lárdə Kótgoò-soven bíyà Bagərmí-sòven
?
'in the country of the Kotoko or the Bagirmi' [Lukas, 1937, p. 144]
- (19) shígà Hêrwà áu Yêrwàlan bógogàda
?
'they called it (i.e. the place) Herwa or Yerwa' [Lukas, 1937, p. 144]
- (20) meâ-găi áu meârò sərgánà-găi
?
'about 100 or about more than 100' [Lukas, 1937, p. 144]
- (21) shâi kəji rà kúttùro támbùskin
?
'I taste whether the tea is sweet or bitter' [Lukas, 1937, p. 144]

- (22) kām átə tamozénà rá tamozên̄yi?
?
'Is this man dead or not?' [Lukas, 1937, p. 144]

6 Postpositions

Kanuri has postpositions and one preposition as well.

1. *dugô* 'after'
2. *gənyâ* 'except'
3. *naŋkaro* 'on account of'
4. *-găi* 'like, about, for instance'
5. *burgôn* 'before'
6. *nguró/ngurôn* 'there, there at distance, there [invisible], up there, down there'
7. *kajíyà* 'except'
8. *sái* 'except, only' (preposition)

References

Lukas, Johannes (1937). *A Study of the Kanuri Language: Grammar and Vocabulary*.
London: Oxford University Press.